## Message Text

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**ACTION EB-11** 

INFO OCT-01 EA-11 ISO-00 AGR-20 CEA-02 CIAE-00 COME-00

DODE-00 FRB-02 H-03 INR-10 INT-08 L-03 LAB-06 NSAE-00

NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01 AID-20 CIEP-02 SS-20 STR-08

TAR-02 TRSE-00 USIA-15 PRS-01 SPC-03 OMB-01 DRC-01

(ISO)W

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R 120739Z NOV 73 FM AMEMBASSY SEOUL TO SECSTATE WASHDC 999 INFO AMEMBASSY TAIPEI

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E.O. 11652: GDS TAGS: ETRD, KS, TS SUBJECT: MUSHROOMS

**REF: STATE 221537** 

- 1. ON NOVEMBER 12 EMBOFF DISCUSSED MUSHROOM IMPORT PROBLEM WITH CHOI, HO CHUNG, DIRECTOR, COMMERCIAL AFFAIRS BUREAU, MOFA, AND MADE POINTS CONTAINED REFTEL. AFTER SUMMARIZING USUAL KOREAN POINTS CONTAINED IN ZNRLY ROKG AIDE MEMOIRE ON THIS SUBJECT, CHOI ASSERTED THAT PRIOR CONVERSATIONS (PARTICULARLY IN WASHINGTON) HAD NOT SUCCEEDED IN COMMUNICATING HOW SERIOUSLY USG TAKES MUSHROOM QUESTION. CHOI FURTHER RECOGNIZES THAT USG IS SERIOUS AND THEREFORE WILL CONSULT WITH OTHER CONCERNED ROKG MINISTERIES TO SEE WHETHER EARLY KOREAN POSITION CAN BE RECONSIDERED. HE WOULD NOT ESTIMATE HOW LONG THIS PROCESS MIGHT TAKE; HOWEVER, HE AGREED TO TRY TO EXPEDITE IT.
- 2. CHOI APPEARED TO ADMIT THAT EARLY ROKG STRATEGY HAD BEEN TO WAIT UNTIL US/ROC AGREEMENT HAD BEEN REACHED, CONFIDENTIAL

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AND THEN SEEK TO OBTAIN BETTER TERMS FOR KOREA. HE

ALSO MADE THE POINT THAT USG, RATHER THAN SEEKING NEGOTIATIONS, WAS SIMPLY LOOKING FOR KOREANS ACQUIESCENCE IN UNILATERALLY DETERMINED BASED LEVELES AND GROWTH RATES.

3. RE LATTER POINT, SHOULD ROKG AGREE TO NEGOTIATIONS, EMBASSY IS UNCLEAR AS TO WHAT THE SUBSTANCE WOULD BE SINCE OUR IMPRESSION AGREES WITH CHOI'S, I.E. USG HAS ALREADY DETERMINED MUSHROOM BASE LEVELS AND GROWTH RATES AND THESE ARE NON-NEGOTIABLE. HABIB

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## Message Attributes

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**Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED** 

Concepts: MUSHROOMS, EXPORT CONTROLS, COMMODITY AGREEMENTS

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To: STATE

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